

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9762

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3166

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ID

SUBJECT: TIMOR-DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: STATE 051528

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY JENKINS' LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER (REFTTEL) ACCURATELY REFLTECTS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY REGARDING ALLEGED ATROCITIES DURING INDONESIAN INTERVENTION IN EAST TIMOR. FROM COPY OF DUNN REPORT FURNISHED US BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN CONFIDENCE, WE GATHER DUNN'S ACCOUNT OF INDONESIAN ATROCITIES WAS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS IN PORTUGAL WITH SOME FIFTEEN OR LESS TIMORESE, OF WHOM AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER DID NOT CLAIM TO BE EYE-WITNESSES OF EVENTS DESCRIBED. WE HAVE NO OTHER REPORTS OF THESE ALLEGED ATROCITIES AND HAVE NO MEANS OF AUTHENTICATING OR DISPROVING THEIR VERACITY. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL LETTER TO FRASER.

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2. INDONESIAN ACTION IN TIMOR IN EARLY 1976 FOLLOWED EXTENDED PERIOD OF CONFLICT BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL GROUPS. BY TIME OF DECISION OF INDONESIA TO INTERVENE, FEELINGS WERE ALREADY RUNNING HIGH AND THERE HAD BEEN BILLINGS AND UNDOUBTEDLY SOME ATROCITIES AS RESULT. EARLY INDONESIAN ACTION WAS BASED LARGELY ON LOCAL VOLUNTEERS PROBABLY LED BY INDONESIAN OFFICERS. WHILE PRECISE INFORMATION IS SCARCE, IT IS LIKELY

THAT THESE "TERRITORIALS" ENGAGED IN EXCESSES AND SOME VENDETTA KILLINGS. WE HAVE NO SUBSTANTIATION OF THIS POSSIBILITY BEYOND THE REPORTS OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF REFUGEES INTERVIEWED BY MR. DUNN. WE DO HAVE INDICATIONS FROM SOURCES WE FEEL ARE RELIABLE THAT ONCE THESE EXCESSES WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR INDONESIAN OFFICIALS THEY WERE HALTED AND THE OFFENDING UNITS WERE SHIPPED OUT.

3. WE CANNOT CONDONE SUCH EXCESSES EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF BITTER POLITICAL RIVALRY AND WARFARE. OUR VIEWS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE TIMOR SITUATION HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

4. WHILE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TIMOR IS SCARCE, WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS OF ANY RECENT EXCESSES AGAINST THE POPULATION OF EAST TIMOR OF THE NATURE ALLEGED BY MR. DUNN'S REPORT. FRETELIN FORCES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE ISLAND. INDONESIAN POLICY HAS BEEN, EXCEPT WHERE THEIR FORCES ARE ATTACKED, TO ENCOURAGE SURRENDER AND TO WAIT OUT THE EXPECTED COLLAPSE OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. INDONESIA APPARENTLY CONTROLS ALL MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS AND HAS RESTORED NORMAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN THESE CENTERS. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONCENTRATING ON EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES TO INTRODUCE INDONESIAN EDUCATION AND TO REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BROUGHT TO THE
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ATTENTION OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE USE OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WHILE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT THE USE OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS BEING AVOIDED, THE MATTER IS COMPLICATED BY THE FORMAL INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT ITS HUMAN COST. IT WAS NEITHER CONDONED NOR ENCOURAGED BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS HOPED FOR A MORE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DECOLONIALIZATION OF THE TERRITORY. INDONESIA BELIEVED THAT CONTINUING CONFLICT IN THAT AREA OR A WEAKENED INDEPENDENT STATE REPRESENTED A THREAT TO ITS SECURITY AND THAT, AT THE TIME, FEW OTHER ALTERNATIVES EXISTED.

7. THE U.S. HAS TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH AND MAJOR INTERESTS IN INDONESIA. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE AVOIDED ALL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD SUGGEST ANY RECOGNITION OF THE

INCORPORATION OF TIMOR INTO INDONESIA AND HAVE BROUGHT
TO THE ATTENTION OF INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, OUR CONCERNS OVER
REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION IN TIMOR.
WE BELIEVE THESE HAVE HAD SOME EFFECT BUT THEY HAVE NOT CHANGED
INDONESIA'S BASIC DECISION TO TAKE ACTION IT FELT WAS IN THE INTERES
T
OF ITS OWN AND THE AREA'S STABILITY.
GARDNER

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